

# Romulus News

DECEMBER 15, 2000 – JANUARY 11, 2001

"the little paper"

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 11

## Timely Tidbits ...

### See You in 2001!

The friendly staff of "the little paper" will be taking a couple of weeks off for a little R&R, so our next issue won't be published until January 12, 2001.

We wish our readers a happy, healthy holiday season, and look forward to seeing and serving you all next year.

### Winter Concert

Romulus High School's Concert Choir and Dance Classes will present their annual Winter Concert in the school auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20. Admission is free.

### Holiday Cards Feature Student Art

Just in time for last-minute holiday correspondence, cards featuring pen-and-ink drawings by Romulus High School and Middle School students are being offered for sale in the High School's main office. Proceeds will go to the Oakwood Foundation, which will disburse the funds to the Romulus Adolescent Health Center (RAHC) for use in clinic programs.

The fund-raiser was first suggested by RAHC Director Diane Vidovic, who thought that a project that showcased student art while benefiting the clinic would be a great service-learning program. Vidovic approached art teacher Gail Fraley, and eventually the original winter-theme art work of 13 students was used to create the cards.

The talented young artists are: Renee Byard, Humberto Comacho, D'Aun Dawson, Christopher Deaton, Lauren Fox, Scott Kennedy, Muneer Khan, Jessica Kortas, Jason Kucharski, Makenzie Logan, Brenda Perry, Jeremy Treece, and Megan Woodrow.

Since a limited number of card packages are available, interested parties should place their orders right away. The cost per 10-card packet is \$10. For more information, contact Bonnie Bossidis at the High School (734-941-1907, ext. 141). □

## Lambert Announces Candidacy for Mayor

It's finally official: Prominent local resident Alan Lambert will run for Mayor of the City of Romulus in November 2001.

Formally announcing his candidacy at a Christmas party campaign fundraiser held December 2 at the VFW hall on Huron River Drive, Lambert told about 250 family members, friends, and other well-wishers, "Romulus needs a fresh start going into the 21st century. Our city is at a critical stage in its history, and a change of leadership is imperative!"

Lambert stressed his intention to "work with the people" to accomplish common goals.

"Standing together as one, we must improve the quality of life in our city," he stated.

The Romulus native is certainly no stranger to public service. The current Treasurer of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education is also a former City Councilman who served three full terms of office and part of a fourth before resigning in 1988 to accept a position with the Romulus Police Department. At present, Lambert works

as the City's liaison officer to the Community Middle and High School program at Mt. Pleasant School. There, his job is to insure the safety of students and staff members and also serve as a role model for the young people.

During his speech, Lambert also talked to his guests about his personal background and experience. The father of five children (Justin, Cary, Sara, Jennifer, and Kallena), he is especially proud of the fact that, as a now-single parent, he has raised his son on his own for the past nine years.

Later, Lambert discussed his convictions about the importance of reaching out to lend a helping hand to others in times of trouble. In keeping with this philosophy, he took advantage of his own campaign fund-raiser to raise an additional \$300 for leukemia victim Shannon Spiser, nine-year-old daughter of Mt. Pleasant School employee Barbara Burtch.

Lambert says that he plans to get into a more detailed discussion of issues after the beginning of the new year, when he will set up a Web site



Alan Lambert

identifying his major campaign planks and will also establish a telephone hotline for residents' questions. He hopes that citizens will feel free to contact him with their concerns. □

## EDS Gets Draft Permit for Citrin Waste Facility

By Kristi Stephens

On Monday, December 11, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced that it proposes to issue a hazardous waste management construction permit for the Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. (EDS) facility located on Citrin Drive in Romulus. The agency's decision controverts an earlier Site Review Board (SRB) recommendation to deny the permit, and brings the lengthy application process into its final public-comment period.

Only a State-mandated public meeting – to be held at Romulus High School at 7 p.m. on January 17 (see page 18 for details) – remains before DEQ Director Russ Harding can make his decision.

Of special interest to local residents who have followed the EDS story closely over the past few years will be a "Fact Sheet" that the DEQ issued along with its December 11 draft permit. The 15-page document summarizes the entire permit application process and also explains the rationale behind the agency's decision. Briefly, the DEQ cited its own determination that the facility "satis-

fies all of the technical design, construction, and operating standards" established by the laws governing such projects, then addressed the SRB decision by saying, "The DEQ does not agree with the SRB recommendation to deny the construction permit because the SRB did not provide any legitimate reason for denial that cannot be mitigated by a special condition in the construction permit." In fact, the SRB's failure to properly identify and address relevant issues was cited by the DEQ again and again.

For instance, on the subject of whether or not the EDS facility would adversely affect area property values, the DEQ wrote, "The SRB did not deliberate the issue and, therefore, did not develop a defensible argument that the facility would have an adverse impact ... Further, if the SRB was convinced on this issue, it missed the opportunity (arguably an obligation) to identify what could be done to mitigate the adverse impacts."

In addition to the standard conditions that are typically established in construction permits and operating li-

censes issued by the DEQ, EDS's draft permit contains several facility-specific conditions intended to mitigate the legitimate adverse effects that the SRB identified in its recommendation for a denial. Among the concerns that the DEQ considers to be adequately addressed are:

- dangers associated with increased truck traffic (permit limits traffic to 26 trucks per day);
- lack of more than one access road (permit requires EDS to provide an alternate emergency access road to the site); and
- inadequate water supply (permit requires EDS to provide a looped water supply to the site as required by the City of Romulus).

Perhaps foremost in the minds of many Romulus residents, however, is the question of whether or not EDS will be required to comply with other local ordinances, as well. On this subject, the DEQ was quite specific, stating, "Since the SRB failed in its responsibility to justify and integrate specific local requirements, the DEQ will not integrate all of them into a construction permit for

*continued on page 14*



## Guest Commentary

### Voters Should Beware of "New" Miller

By Mark Brewer

Recently, Secretary of State Candice Miller suggested a statewide uniform voting system and Election Day as a holiday to make voting easier. On the surface, it sounds like Miller is truly concerned about giving as many people as possible easy access to the ballot box. But people should beware: as Candice Miller uses the Secretary of State's office to run her future gubernatorial campaign, look very closely at her record. As Secretary of State, Candice Miller has a six-year history of making it as difficult as possible for people to vote.

People might be confused as to which Candice Miller to believe – the partisan Miller who has made voting more difficult, or the gubernatorial candidate who had an epiphany and suddenly wants to make it easier for people to vote. A quick review of her record will reveal her true intent.

The new Miller claims she wants to have a uniform statewide voting system, but she has been conspicuously short on details. The old Miller still cannot get the Qualified Voter File (QVF) up and running. The QVF, which is a centralized database of all Michigan voters, is still, after six years of a Miller administration, seriously over budget and behind schedule. Why would people trust Miller to administer a statewide voting system when she cannot administer the statewide voter database?

The new Miller says she wants to consolidate local, school, and state election dates. She believes this will make the average voter more aware of when elections take place. But the old Miller opposed the Motor Voter law, which allows the average voter to register at any government office. Motor Voter would have been a perfect opportunity for the old Miller to prove she really has the voters' best interest in mind by giving them easier access to the ballot box.

The new Miller also wants to make Election Day a holiday, and is encouraging voting on Saturday. She argues that this would make it easier for people to vote. But the old Miller supported Senate Bill 306, which made it more difficult for students to vote on campus. This successful legislation led to serious confusion on election day at Michigan State University, and made it more difficult for students to vote. In fact, there were many accounts of students not being able to vote because the QVF was not prepared for the numbers of students changing their address. Before Miller supports another change in election law, voters need to look at previous election law changes she sup-

ported and question how that legislation affected voters.

When the Michigan legislature suggested every voter be required to show voter identification at the polls, the old Miller was silent. She said nothing to oppose this unnecessary legislation, which is nothing more than a thinly veiled effort to intimidate voters. If the new Miller wants to make it easier for everyone to vote, why didn't she make the old Miller stand up against this legislation?

In Candice Miller's tenure as Secretary of State, she has thrown up every roadblock possible to make it more difficult for people to vote. People should not be fooled into believing that Miller wants to make it easier for people to vote, because her history proves otherwise. Miller will now use the last two years of her office not to help voters, but to boost her gubernatorial campaign. With her abysmal record as Michigan's Secretary of State, she will need all the help she can muster in her efforts to become governor.

Mark Brewer is the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, and can be contacted at 517-371-5410.

*Editor's note: The purpose of the "Guest Commentary" column is to provide members of the Romulus community and other interested parties with an opportunity to express their viewpoint on issues of interest to the people who live and do business here. Responsible individuals and spokespersons are invited to make use of this column, free of charge, anytime.*

*Opinions expressed in the "Guest Commentary" column do not necessarily reflect those of The Romulus News' staff members or advertisers.*

*For more information, contact Kristi Stephens, editor, at 734-941-1907. □*

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Business Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The Romulus News (also known as "the little paper") is published biweekly by Nite-Lite Graphics, P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038.

Nite-Lite Graphics and The Romulus News are owned and operated by Evelyn H. Atkins.

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"Wishing all Romulus Citizens  
a Joyous Holiday Season  
and a New Year filled with  
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## Mock Lockup Benefits MDA



Romulus High School Principal Dan Hurst (right) agreed to be "locked up for good" to raise money for the MDA.

On Wednesday, December 6, the Second Annual Romulus MDA Lockup was held to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., local business leaders, government and school officials, and other community-minded individuals were "Locked Up For Good" to raise funds to help the MDA's patients' families in Romulus and surrounding communities.

"The MDA Lockup is a fun event," said an agency spokesperson. "Participants are picked up at their place of business and brought to our temporary 'jail,' where we take a 'mug shot' and feed them our version of 'bread and water,' then allow them to use the phone to make arrangements for their 'bail' and subsequent release."

One well-known local personage who took part in this year's program was Romulus High School Principal Daniel Hurst.

"Usually, it's my wife [Kathy Hurst, Coordinator of Service Learning for the Romulus Community Schools] who gets involved in events like these," Hurst stated. "She's always talking about how gratifying it is to help other people. So when the MDA called and asked me to be 'locked up' for a good cause, I agreed."

"And it really is true," he added. "Performing a selfless act is a fulfilling experience."

Hurst expressed his gratitude to the many colleagues, students, and friends who so generously dug into their pockets to raise his "bail," and ended up donating almost \$1,100.

"Not only did the teachers and other staff members contribute to the cause, but the kids did, too - putting their change into jars that were passed from classroom to classroom."

"It made me feel good to have so many people show their support and appreciation for what I was doing." □

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### A Christmas Message from Al Lambert

It is my pleasure to wish all Romulus residents a joyous Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

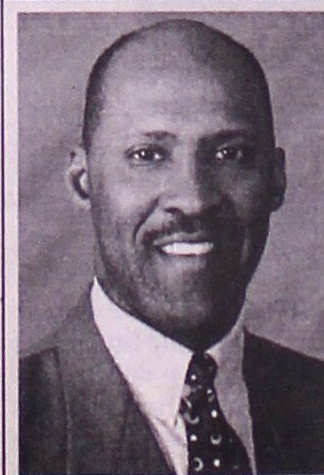
And a special thanks and good wishes to all my friends who joined me at my Christmas party. What a thrill it was to see so many who came out to share my hopes for our city.

I was sorry that some of you were unable to find room in the hall and parking lot, but there will be more occasions for getting together.

May God bless you and bring you your fondest Christmas wishes.

**Al Lambert and Family**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Alan Lambert



Paid for by the Committee to Elect Randolph Gear

## Season's Greetings

Hope this is a season filled with pleasant surprises and wonderful moments. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It's a pleasure to be of service to you.

**Randy Gear**  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Romulus





## Merriman Wins State's Golden Apple for MEAP Improvement



State Assistant Superintendent Mike Williamson (left) congratulates Romulus Community Schools Superintendent Joel R. Carr on Merriman Elementary's Golden Apple Award. The school will receive \$50,000 to continue its school improvement process.

Recognizing Merriman Elementary for its significant improvement in student performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), the Michigan Merit Award office has presented the school with its first annual Golden Apple Award and a \$50,000 check to be used for further school improvement.

Mark Leyda, Executive Director of the Merit Award program, explained that \$10,000 of the money will be allocated to Merriman Principal Shellie Moore to be used at her discretion; use of the remaining \$40,000 will be determined by a majority vote of the school's staff members.

Extending his congratulations to

Moore, Curriculum Director Tom Dolan, and Superintendent Joel R. Carr was Mike Williamson, Assistant Superintendent of the State Board of Education, who was in Romulus on December 8 to conduct a MEAP workshop.

"This award is a tangible way of recognizing the teachers and staff who each day help students try harder, reach higher, and achieve more," he said.

Merriman was one of 152 K-5 schools that achieved a composite 60+ point increase in fourth- and fifth-grade MEAP scores over the past three years. An additional 40 schools received an award for achieving the top composite scores in the State by athletic class size of the associated high school. □

## Aldrich Gives Mini Basketball Camp



On Thursday, November 30, many Romulus students took advantage of a half-day off from school to attend a mini basketball camp run by Markita Aldrich, a WNBA player from the Washington Mystics. Students were kept busy with exercises and drills, then provided with trading cards which Aldrich took time to autograph. The camp was sponsored by the Romulus Police Department, Romulus Recreation Department, Romulus Community Schools, and Wayne/Romulus Optimist Club.

### NW Raises \$1,734 for "Toys for Tots"

For more than 10 years, Northwest Airlines has promoted the "Toys for Tots" program. In the past, the airline donated passes and other gifts for fund-raisers, and also gave employees time off to promote the program and sort and distribute toys. This year, reports Toys for Tots Committee member Anita Berrey, Northwest conducted a one-day canned-pop sale to benefit this worthy cause. A total of \$1,734 was raised. □

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# City Holiday Scenes



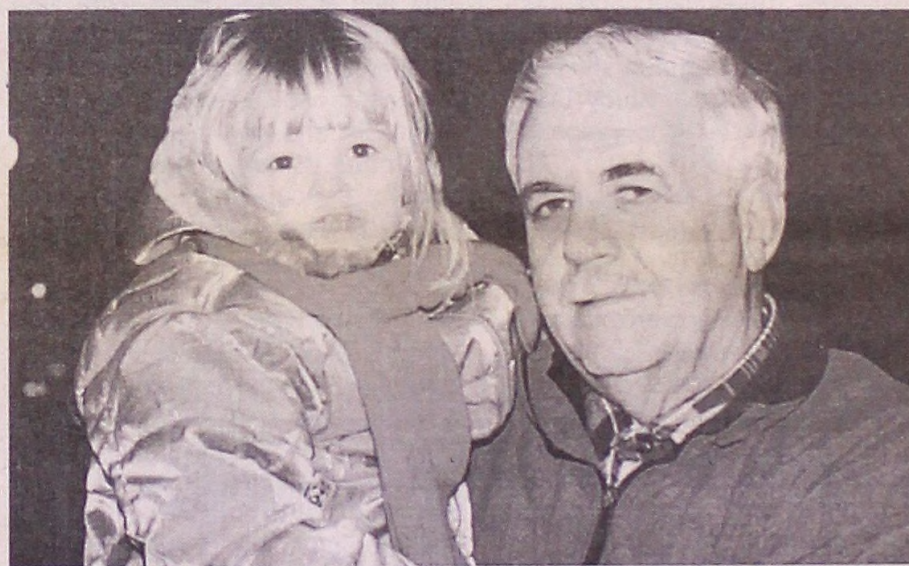
Friday, December 8, was a day of busy holiday activity in Romulus. It began in the early afternoon, with volunteers like R.P. Lilly . . .



. . . Ryan Romak (left), and Board of Education Treasurer Alan Lambert soliciting donations for the Romulus Goodfellows' annual paper drive.



Later that evening, when Santa made his first official appearance in Romulus at the City's annual tree-lighting ceremony, Mayor Bill Oakley was on hand to present him with the keys to the City . . .



. . . while those who braved the chilly temperatures to enjoy the various festivities – like City Councilman Bill Wadsworth and his granddaughter Sarah – looked on.



The day drew to a close at Wick Elementary School, where "special child" Gabrielle Davis – pictured here with her mom, left, and Santa's Helper, "Christmas Carol" (also known as Davyn Cuffee) – was the first to sit on Santa's lap and tell him her Christmas wishes . . .



. . . followed by dozens and dozens of other local children – like (from left) fifth-grader Marwin Boyd, third-grader Beatrice Boyd, and second-grader Brianna Boyd – who stopped by to visit with Santa and enjoy hot cocoa and donuts.



## Wick, Middle School Staffers Receive "Crystal Apple Award"

*Editor's note: The following is the fourth of a series of installments identifying recipients of the Romulus Community Schools' "Crystal Apple Awards" for excellence in service to the district and the community. This installment focuses on employees at Wick Elementary and Romulus Middle School. Watch for the final installment (Romulus High School) in our next issue.*

### Wick Elementary

**Diane Bishop** – Intervention Room specialist Diane Bishop gives extra time every single day. Besides coordinating school-wide fund-raising programs, she is also a member of the Wick School Improvement Team, the Employability Skills Subcommittee, and the District Climate Committee.

**Chris Consales** – As a Resource Room specialist, Chris Consales developed and continues to implement a unique reading program. She trains 21st Century Grant tutors, general staff, paraprofessionals, reteachers, and high-school students. Consales also acts as a mentor to non-tenured staff, serves as chairperson of the Child Study Team, and is a member of the School Improvement Team.

**Kathryn Gable** – Kathryn Gable, a fifth-grade teacher, is co-facilitator of Wick's School Improvement Team. She has implemented Cross Peer Tutoring activities in her class and provides service-learning opportunities for her students. A member of the District Math Committee, Gable also developed a unique Economics unit.

**Tom Gibb-Randall** – One of only five finalists in last year's competition for the Governor's Service Award for Service Learning, fifth-grade teacher Tom Gibb-Randall was the facilitator of the Elmer Johnson Park Service Learning Project. He is a member of the School Improvement Team and the District Social Studies Committee, and also continues to develop writing programs for fifth-grade students.

**Sandra McDonald** – Social worker Sandra McDonald is a member of the School Improvement Team, the District Climate Committee, and the Mayor's Drug Task Force. She developed a school-wide character program and an evening parenting program.

**Marge Olson** – Marge Olson, learning specialist, is actively involved in providing leadership and support to fellow staff members by mentoring non-tenured teachers, as well as serving as a member of the School Improvement Team and the Child Study Team. She is also a facilitator of after-school programs and the coordinator of Wick's Title I and reteaching programs.

**Tavia Redmond** – Sixth-grade teacher Tavia Redmond was a co-leader of the Student Activities Program, Stu-

dent Council, and the School Store, as well as the Wick Multicultural Fair and Science Fair. She successfully implemented sixth-grade Career Projects and Exit Interviews programs, and provided community-service opportunities for her students. Her involvement also includes service on the School Improvement Team and the District Social Studies Committee.

**Jennifer Richard** – Jennifer Richard, a sixth-grade teacher, has provided community-service and service-learning opportunities for her students. She has implemented a unique Cross Peer Tutoring writing program, as well as sixth-grade Career Projects and Exit Interviews programs. A co-leader of the Wick Science Fair and Multicultural Fair, Richard is also a member of the District Math Committee and the Wick School Improvement Team.

**Becky Weimer** – School secretary Becky Weimer cares for an entire staff, the student body, and parents with energy and concern, giving extra time each and every day. She coordinates building activities such as graduation and honors assemblies, fulfilling all her obligations and more.

**Donna Wilson** – Donna Wilson, a paraprofessional, has developed a wonderful learning environment in her Computer Assisted Instruction Classroom (CAIC). She was extraordinarily involved in the Multicultural Fair, and is always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty for students and staff.

**Lisa Zeleji** – Third-grade teacher Lisa Zeleji is co-facilitator of Wick's School Improvement Team. She implemented a unique Cross Peer Tutoring writing program and provides service-learning opportunities for her students.

**Mark Fernandez** – Band teacher Mark Fernandez provides his students with extended after-school learning opportunities on a daily basis, giving lessons for students who want to switch to a new instrument or learn a second instrument. He also put in a good deal of time and work to prepare his students for the annual MSSBOA District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

**Marjorie Gail Fraley** – Gail Fraley, an art teacher, has given hours of her personal time to matting and otherwise preparing student artwork for exhibitions at many area locations. Exhibition sites included the local Wendy's restaurant, the DTE Flower and Garden Show, the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, and the Public Library.

**Sharon Grandell** – Science teacher and department chairperson Sharon Grandell took the lead role in preparing Romulus Middle School students for the Michigan Science Olympiad. Of the 15 students she took to the regional competition, all received a medal in at



Mel Kimbrough (far left), Principal of Romulus Middle School, is proud of his school's "Crystal Apple Award" winners, including (from left): Betty Santo, Mark Fernandez, Sharon Grandell, Gail Fraley, Kellie Knight, and Lynn Webb.

least one of their events. Grandell displays excellent skills in bringing staff and departments together to collaborate on school initiatives. She was co-chairperson of the School Improvement Team and North Central Association Accreditation Team for the Middle School.

**Kellie Knight** – Kellie Knight, who taught social studies at the Middle School last year, spent a great deal of time and energy helping to prepare students for participation in the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad. Sixteen eighth-graders took part in the Quiz Bowl, and students took first place in two events. Knight was also co-chairperson of the School Improvement Team and the school's North Central Association Accreditation Team.

**Betty Santo** – "Life management" teacher Betty Santo – along with over 40 leadership students – completed many projects during the last school year. They included: Crop Walk for Hunger, which raised more than \$300; as-

sisting the Romulus Goodfellows, the Helping Hand Thrift Shop, and the Romulus Police Department by collecting toys, blankets, and food for families in need; distributing food baskets at Thanksgiving; raising \$200 for cancer; putting together "personal-care bags" for children in foster care; and facilitating picnics and dinners for local senior citizens.

**Lynn Webb** – Lynn Webb, secretary to the principal, was recognized because of her knowledge, professionalism, thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, and sense of fun. She is unfailingly polite to students, parents, and staff. Visitors to the Middle School are greeted warmly by someone who is genuinely anxious to help them. Webb is often the person who gives others their first impression of the school, and it is always a positive one. Her small gifts and surprises, such as September's day-long "Just Because" observance, positively impacted the entire Middle School staff. □



Debbie Juriga (back, right), Principal of Wick Elementary, congratulates her school's "Crystal Apple Award" winners, including (from left): front row – Jennifer Richard, Tavia Redmond, Tom Gibb-Randall, and Kathryn Gable; back row – Donna Wilson, Marge Olson, Diane Bishop, Chris Consales, Becky Weimer, and Lisa Zeleji.



# Around the District



(From left): Amanda Kreutzer, Stephanie Jensen, Davun Baskerville, and Benjamin Tuttle—students in Rob Baty's sixth-grade class at Barth—show some of the canned goods they collected for the Romulus Goodfellows.



Cory kids preparing for a vocal holiday concert were (from left): front—Megan Lawrence, India Williams, and Melissa Groce; back—Kaela Torres, Melissa Dufore, Eric Savitske, Christina Gillespie, and Danti Johnson.



Romulus graduate Tracy (Foust) D'Angelo gave daughter Sicilee, a Barth kindergartner, plenty of encouragement before her first holiday concert performance.



Leading the RHS girls' tennis team to a Mega League—Gold championship with a 36–3 record (10–0 League) were (from left): Sabrina Gomes, Carla Broom, Deanna Hunter, Andrea Gibson, and Rachel Broom.



Romulus High School teachers and students conducting a free computer workshop for local residents included (from left): front—Anson Long, Julia Salerno (teacher), Crystal Maycock, Thalia Swint (teacher), and Melissa Redding; back—Angela Bowdler, Jessica Frost, Jodi Bright, Giovanna McLaughlin, and Marilyn Heidenfelter (School-to-Work head).



Students paid admission of a can of food to attend Merriman's Turkey Dance, then donated the 200+ cans to Helping Hand. Taking part were (from left): front—Casey Minner, Megan Brooks, Chentelle Wyatt, Aleshia Wyatt, Sara Heitz, and Tasherra Fenderson; back—Amna Sheikh, Lindsey Williamson, and Lindsay Mitchell. (That's Principal Shellie Moore in back.)



# Peace Around the World



In the spirit of the season, we wish everyone  
the gift of peace and understanding.

All the best to you and yours.

**Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc.**



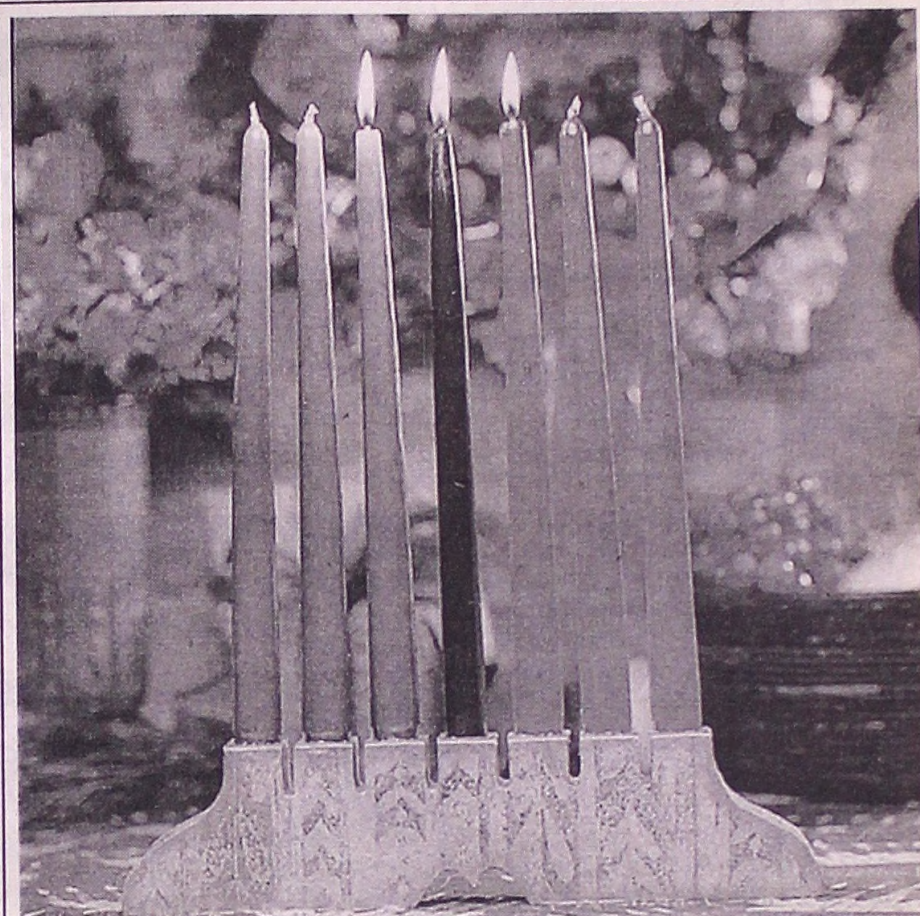
## "A Visit From Saint Nicholas"

Clement C. Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas" served as a model for future Christmas stories and has become the centerpiece of many holiday traditions. Since no celebration would be complete without a bedtime reading of the poem to lull excited children off to sleep, following is the text as officially published by Moore in *The New York Book of Poetry*, 1837.

'Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the house  
Not a creature was stirring,  
not even a mouse;  
The stockings were hung  
by the chimney with care,  
In hope that Saint Nicholas  
soon would be there;  
The children were nestled  
all snug in their beds,  
While visions of sugar plums  
danced in their heads;  
And mamma in her kerchief  
and I in my cap  
Had just settled our brains  
for a long winter's nap,  
When out on the lawn there  
arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my bed to see  
what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew  
like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters, and threw  
up the sash;  
The moon on the breast of the  
new fallen snow,  
Gave a lustre of midday to  
objects below;  
When what to my wondering  
eyes should appear  
But a miniature sleigh and  
eight tiny reindeer,  
With a little old driver, so lively  
and quick  
I knew in a moment, it must be  
St. Nick.  
More rapid than eagles,  
his coursers they came,  
And he whistled and shouted and  
called them by name;  
"Now Dasher! now Dancer!  
now Prancer! now Vixen!  
On, Comet! On, Cupid!  
on Dunder and Blitzen!  
To the top of the porch! To the top  
of the wall!  
Now, dash away, dash away,  
dash away, all!"  
As dry leaves that before  
the wild hurricane fly,  
When they meet with an  
obstacle, mount to the sky,

So up to the housetop  
the coursers they flew,  
With the sleigh full of toys  
and Saint Nicholas too.  
And then in a twinkling, I heard  
on the roof  
The prancing and pawing of each  
little hoof.  
As I drew in my head and was  
turning around  
Down the chimney Saint Nicholas  
came with a bound.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his  
head to his foot,  
And his clothes were all tarnished  
with ashes and soot;  
A bundle of toys he had flung  
on his back,  
And he looked like a peddler just  
opening his pack.  
His eyes — how they twinkled!  
His dimples — how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses,  
his nose like a cherry!  
His droll little mouth was drawn up  
like a bow,  
And the beard of his chin was as  
white as the snow,  
The stump of a pipe he held tight  
in his teeth,  
And the smoke it encircled his head  
like a wreath;  
He had a broad face and a  
round little belly  
That shook when he laughed like  
a bowl full of jelly.  
He was chubby and plump, a right  
jolly old elf  
And I laughed when I saw him,  
in spite of myself.  
A wink of his eye and a twist  
of his head  
Soon gave me to know I had  
nothing to dread.  
He spoke not a word, but went  
straight to his work,  
And filled all the stockings; then  
turned with a jerk,  
And laying his finger aside of  
his nose,  
And giving a nod, up the chimney  
he rose,  
He sprang to his sleigh, to his  
team gave a whistle  
And away they all flew like the  
down of a thistle;  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he  
drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to  
all a good night!"

## The Kwanzaa Celebration



*Mishumaa Saba* are a common feature of Kwanzaa celebrations.

The United States always has been known as a melting pot of cultures. As different groups incorporate their traditions into society, their beliefs become better known and better understood.

Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration that arrives generally around the same time as Christmas and Hanukkah. Although it has become a nationally recognized holiday, many people still know little about what it symbolizes.

Following is some background information about Kwanzaa, along with a few definitions of common Kwanzaa items, courtesy of *Kwanzaa Crafts* (Sterling Publishing), by Marcia Odle McNair.

"The Kwanzaa holiday gathers together families and friends to celebrate their family ties, remember their ancestors, support their community and give thanks for the good things in life. Kwanzaa is a Swahili term that means 'the fruits of the harvest,' and was founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966.

Homes in which Kwanzaa is celebrated are decorated with the colors red, green, and black and are adorned with the following symbols.

"**Mkeka** is traditionally a woven straw mat that represents reverence for tradition.

"**Muhindi** is corn. An ear of corn for each child of the family is placed on the mkeka to symbolize the celebration of children and continuity of the human family.

"**Mazao**, or fruits, vegetables and nuts placed in a woven basket, are the products of unified effort and the earth's abundance.

"**Zawadi** are handmade Afrocentric gifts or books, which have an emphasis placed on cultural and educational values.

"**Kinara**, the seven-branched candle holder, is symbolic of the African people and continent.

"**Kikombe cha umoja** is the unity cup for libation, which is used to pay respect to the past, present and future.

"**Mishumaa saba** are the seven candles (one black, three red and three green) that exemplify the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

"Kwanzaa is started with a question of 'What is the news?' The return answer will be the principle of the day — one of seven. On the sixth day, the Karamu, or feast, takes place. Simple gifts and cards are given out during the days and participants may wear native attire throughout the celebration."

### Seven Principles of Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a joyous time for African-Americans to celebrate their heritage. Following are its seven fundamental principles.

- Imani (faith)
- Kujichagulia (self-determination)
- Kuumba (creativity)
- Nia (purpose)
- Ujamaa (cooperative economics)
- Ujima (collective responsibility)
- Umoja (unity)



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## Move Over, Frosty!



White wood, like birch, can give the feel of snow without fear of the poor snowman melting away when a warm spell arrives. (photo: *The Woman's Day Book of Holiday Crafts* (Penguin).)

Snowmen are a common feature of the winter landscape and a good symbol of the holidays. Dressed in woolen scarves and worn-out hats, these ragamuffin figures never fail to bring a smile to passersby.

While snowmen actually made out of the "frosty white stuff" are the traditional way to ring in winter, an all-snow sculpture just may not be

practical for your home. Why not use another material to create a similar snowman pattern? White wood, like birch, can give the feel of snow without fear of the poor snowman melting away when a warm spell arrives.

And remember, you don't have to create just snowmen . . . snowwomen should receive equal time in the spotlight. □

## Enjoy a Kiss Under Mistletoe

At one time or another, most of us have been caught off guard by the innocent kiss of a stranger at a holiday party, only to look up and realize that we were standing unsuspectingly under a sprig of mistletoe.

Have you ever wondered where the tradition of a kiss beneath the mistletoe began? Enjoy the following explanation, courtesy of *Holiday Folklore, Phobias and Fun* (Outcomes Unlimited Press), by Donald E. Dossey.

"There is no doubt that the Druids regarded mistletoe as sacred. They believed that the missel thrush had brought the green plant from heaven, carrying it with its toes. That is how the "missel thrush's toe," said quickly, over time became *mistletoe*.

"During the winter solstice, the season of both anxiety and festivity, the Druids decked their homes with holly, ivy and mistletoe; their greenness throughout the freezing winter represented eternal life. They burned mistletoe on their sacrificial alters as a symbol of hope and peace. This ritual probably established the custom that enemies would drop their weapons and embrace if they chanced to meet under the mistletoe. Our kissing custom may have begun with this ancient practice.

"The ancient Norse had another view of the mistletoe tradition. These people thought mistletoe was sacred because of Frigg, goddess of love and the mother of their sun god Balder. According to a Norse myth, Frigg became alarmed after Balder had a dream of death. She thought that if the sun god were to die, all life on earth would die. Frigg immediately secured a promise from all the gods in heaven and on earth, and every animal and plant that they would not harm her son. She missed one plant, mistletoe, which grew on the oak trees.

"The jealous god of evil, Loki, sneaked into a dinner party the gods were having. Loki tricked the blind god of winter, Hoder, into shooting an arrow tipped with mistletoe at Balder. The arrow struck Balder, and the god was dead. The world mourned; all was dark.

"At the end of three days of trying to bring Balder back to life, Frigg finally succeeded with her power of love. She was so joyful that she began to kiss everyone who passed under the tree where the mistletoe was growing, and she made a decree. Never again would the mistletoe do any harm, and anyone who stood under it would be rewarded with a kiss." □

## A "Shining" Hanukkah Table

Crunchy and delicious, mandel bread is a treat commonly enjoyed during Hanukkah celebrations. This dessert is of German descent and generally has the same consistency as Italian biscotti. The dough can be rolled into many different shapes, including a Magen David, also known as the Star of

David – the six-pointed star that is the symbol of Judaism.

As a variation on the traditional recipe, use colored frosting or decorative candies to add a personal touch to this tasty and visually appealing dessert, reprinted here courtesy of *Creative Cook's Kitchen*.

### Hanukkah Mandel Bread

2 eggs

$\frac{2}{3}$  cup plus 2 tablespoons granulated sugar, divided

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup ground almonds

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup vegetable oil

2 teaspoons vanilla extract

2 $\frac{1}{2}$  cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

### Frosting

Powdered egg white

2 cups confectioners' sugar

2 to 3 teaspoons water

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Line a 13-inch by 9-inch baking pan with aluminum foil.

2. In a large bowl, mix eggs,  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup sugar, almonds, oil and vanilla. Using a wooden spoon, beat until smooth and well blended, about 1 minute. In a medium bowl, combine flour and baking powder; add to egg mixture, a little at a time, stirring until a stiff dough forms.

3. On a sheet of waxed paper, roll dough into a 12-inch by 8-inch rectangle. Invert pan over dough; flip dough into pan. Discard paper; press dough evenly into pan. Using a fork, prick dough all over. Sprinkle dough with remaining sugar. Bake until golden, 25 to 30 minutes.

4. Transfer the pan to a wire rack to cool for 20 minutes. While mandel bread is still warm, using a small sharp knife,

cut crosswise into 21  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch strips; let cool completely.

### Arrange the Mandel Bread

1. Prepare egg white as package directs. In a medium bowl, mix egg white and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Add water, a little at a time, until a glue-like consistency is reached. Spoon into a large resealable plastic bag; snip off one corner.

2. On a serving platter, arrange three strips, cut-sides up, in a triangle shape; attach ends with frosting.

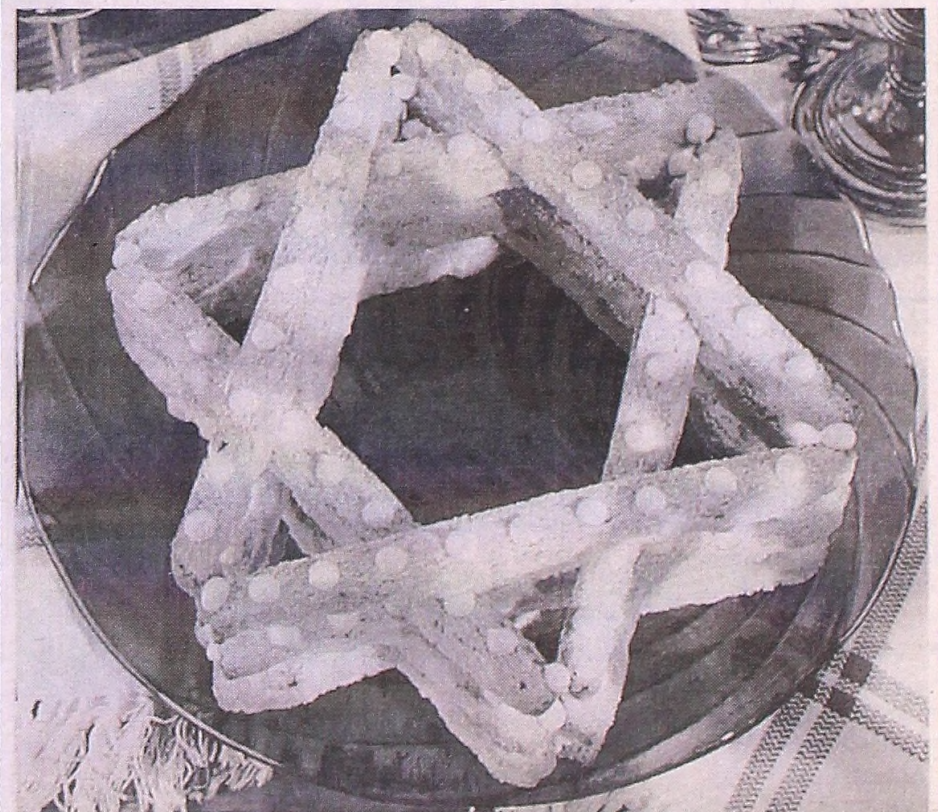
3. Pipe dots of frosting along top of triangle. Form a second triangle; arrange on top of the first triangle to create a six-pointed star. Decorate top of triangle with frosting dots.

4. Continue stacking and decorating triangles to make seven layers. Let stand until frosting is dry, about 2 hours.

### Hanukkah Fact

For children of the Jewish faith, the dreidel – a spinning top – is a popular plaything at Hanukkah.

The Hebrew letters on the side of the dreidel stand for the words which mean "a great miracle happened here" – commemorating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem.



Mandel bread will add a bright spot to any Hanukkah dinner table.



# *Have a Joyous Holiday Season*



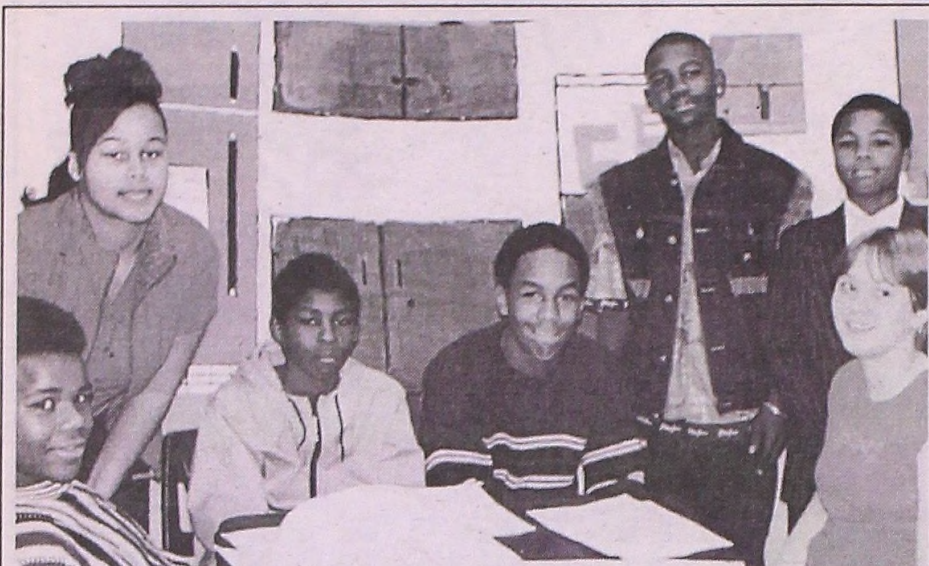
We hope the holidays find you  
surrounded by peace and joy.

Thank you for your kind support this past year.

Romulus Community Schools  
Board of Education and Staff



## CMS Students Present Play, Receive Honors for Excellence



Students who contributed to the Community Middle School's successful presentation of *The Giver* included (from left): Greg Scott (performed the part of "Father"), Lekesia Kenderick ("Jonas"), Kionte Jones (gave the introduction), Jevon Edwards (gave the introduction), Darryl Steele ("The Giver"), Dev'on Sutton ("Lily"), and Kristy Karawan ("Mother").

Students at the Romulus-Belleville Community Middle School recently presented a play called *The Giver* for their parents and other invited guests. Teachers DeAnn Hanlon and Scott Roark coordinated the program, which also included a poem written by student Shane King and a holiday feast for everyone in attendance.

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Community Middle School Principal Al Wilkerson was pleased with his students' efforts.

"It took a lot of courage for them to get up in public and then do such a nice job on their presentation," he stated.

Among those who participated in the performance were Jevon Edwards and Kionte Jones, who gave the introduction, as well as cast members Kristy Karawan ("Mother"), Lekesia Kenderick ("Jonas"), Greg Scott ("Father"), Darryl Steele ("The Giver"), and Dev'on Sutton ("Lily"). Set designers included Candice Davis, Amber DeFrank, and Rory Frank.

At an awards ceremony held later, Honor Roll certificates were given to Amanda Hall, Ken Hertlein, and Brandon Miller, while Perfect Attendance certificates went to Candice Davis and Lekesia Kenderick. □

## EDS Gets Draft Permit for Waste Facility

*continued from page 1*

EDS. Instead, the DEQ will require compliance with certain local requirements that would not alter the approved plans and specifications or prohibit construction of the facility."

Not surprisingly, EDS owner and president Doug Wicklund is pleased with the DEQ's decision to issue the draft permit.

"We would like to thank the DEQ for their objectivity after four years of close scrutiny," Wicklund stated. "The department's careful review should leave no doubt that our state-of-the-art facility is going to set a new standard for the safe disposal of industrial wastewaters while protecting the environment and preserving the quality of life for the citizens of Romulus."

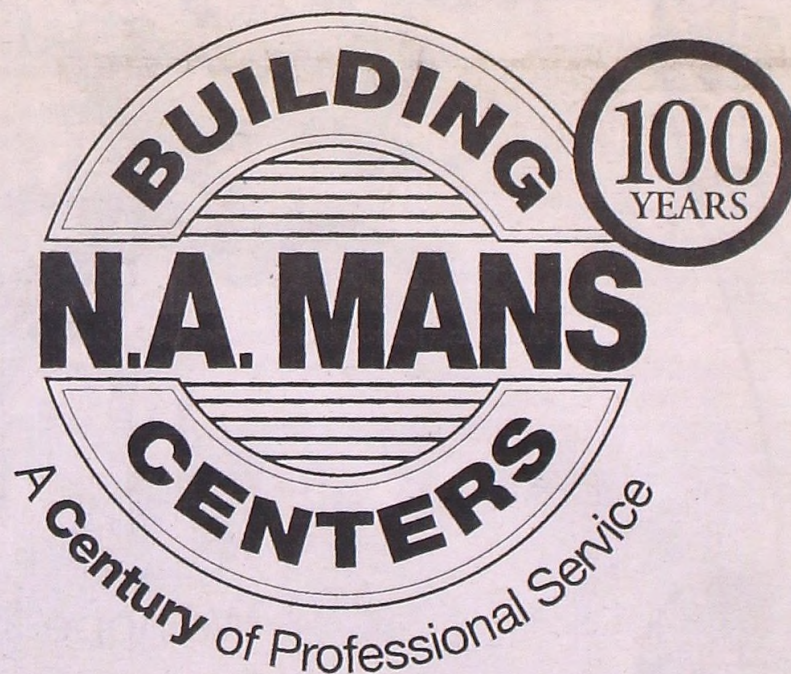
"We're proud of the fact that our company will be helping to preserve

Michigan's usable sources of drinking water by injecting wastes nearly a mile beneath the earth's surface, instead of treating them and releasing them into sewer systems that empty into the Detroit River, which feeds Lake Erie. We're also proud that our disposal alternative will offer a significant cost savings to area industries currently using other methods, since this will help them remain economically competitive, provide jobs, and support local tax bases."

Wicklund concluded by saying that he looks forward to reestablishing a "good corporate neighbor" relationship with the City of Romulus.

"Our integrity and goodwill are on the line," he acknowledged. "As a result, we are determined to see that our deepwell is designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that addresses the concerns of the community." □

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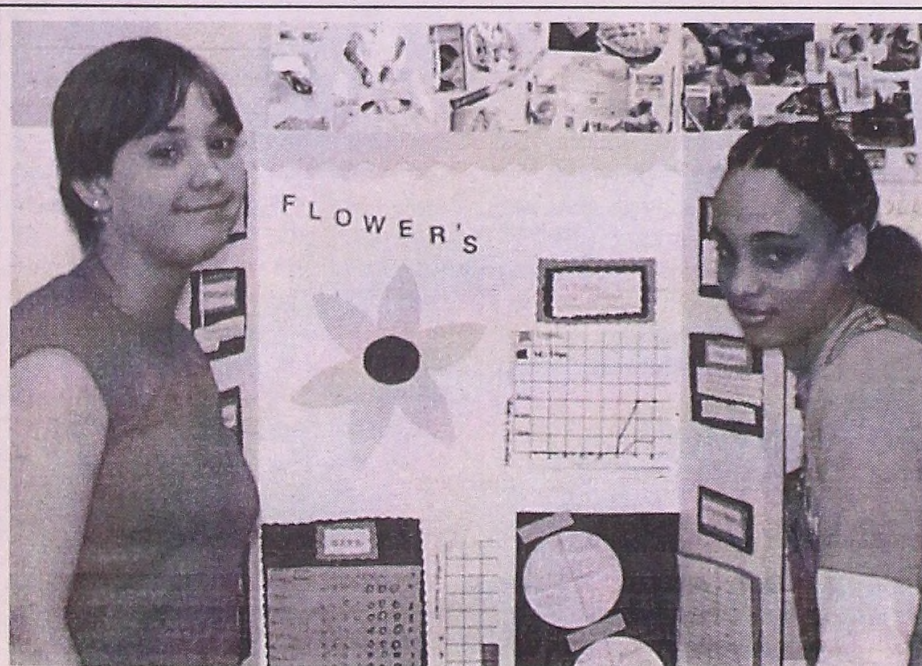


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CMS eighth-graders Kristy Karawan (left) and Candice Davis showed off their "flowers" project at the school's recent celebration.



## Students Write Congressmen Regarding Electoral College



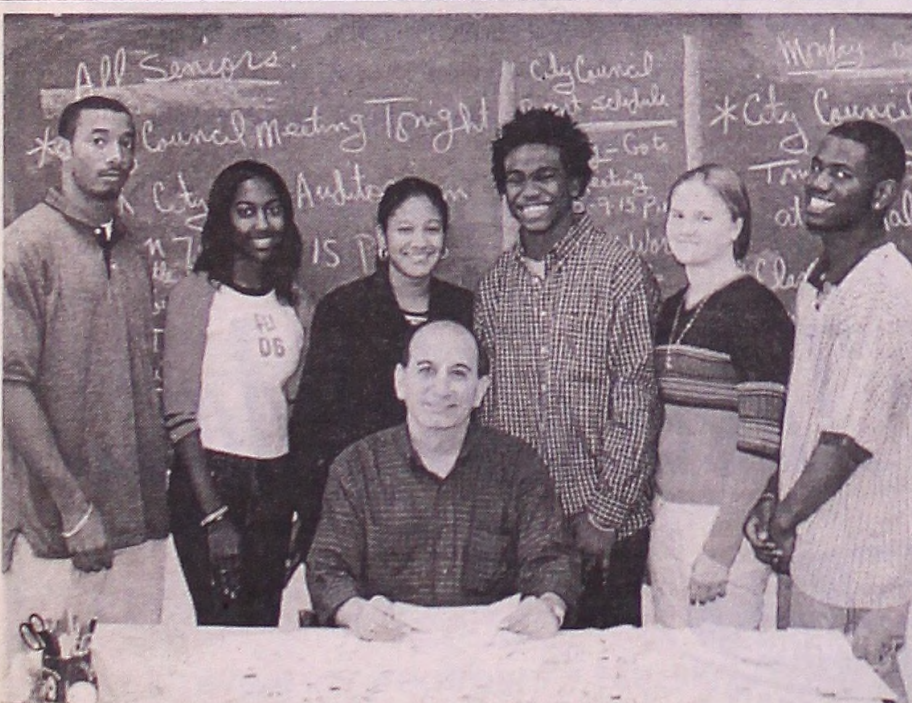
(From left): front row – Robert Rice and Bethany Swauger; back row – Julian Lambert, Josh Nichols, Joe Watt, instructor Rod Hanna, Brandi Hamilton, Leslie Perez, and Hilary Kozma.



(From left): Jullian Bond, Crystal Minner, Clint Bergum (originator of the letter-writing campaign), instructor Rod Hanna, James Pruitt, Jamie Henne, and Britteney Clark.



(From left): Akeem Martin, Demequa Poole, instructor Rod Hanna, Justin Smith, Laura Tanner, and Schlay Wooden.



Instructor Rod Hanna (seated) and (from left): Chris Talley, Kim Mingo, Princess Walker, Bruce Donald, Carrie Spielman, and Rashad Woods.

Students in Romulus High School teacher Rod Hanna's government class got a practical lesson in exercising their right to petition their government through their participation in an extra-credit letter-writing campaign they recently concluded. The project was suggested by student Clint Bergum during a class discussion about the Electoral College.

"It was just after the presidential election, and Mr. Hanna was using the controversy about the election results to explain the Electoral College system," said Bergum. "A bunch of us were really mad about the way things turned out, and I just raised my hand and suggested that writing our congressmen about our feelings would be a good class project."

Students who chose to participate in the project wrote letters to Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow as well as to Representative Lynn Rivers.

Each advocated one of four positions:

- abolishing the Electoral College system entirely and replacing it by a popular-vote system;
- amending the Electoral College system so that a state's Electoral votes are divided in such a way that a candidate's percentage of the popular vote equals his/her percentage of the Electoral votes;
- amending the Electoral College system so that a state's Electoral votes are divided in such a way that the winner of the popular vote in each district receives that district's Electoral vote (the two Senatorial electors support the state's overall popular-vote winner); and
- leaving the current system (in which a state casts all its Electoral votes for the candidate who receives the largest share of its popular vote) intact.

When asked which position he advocates, Bergum said, "I believe that we should abolish the Electoral College entirely. The President of the United States should be the person who got the most voter support." □

### Substitute School Bus Drivers Needed for Romulus Schools

#### Qualifications:

- high-school diploma or GED
- valid Michigan driver's license
- five-year good driving record
- ability to pass a physical
- ability to pass a drug test
- ability to work Monday-Friday (early mornings & early afternoons)
- desire to work with children

Training will be provided for qualified applicants.

Applications accepted  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.,  
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Romulus Community Schools  
Transportation Department  
36540 Grant Road  
Romulus, Michigan 48174  
734-941-1600

### A Savior Is Born

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger." - Luke 2:7

May you keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart all year round. We are thankful for your continued support and look forward to serving you in the new year.

The Folks at  
The Romulus News








*Jingle bells, mistletoe, sledding, ice skating, snowball fights, sitting by a fire, celebrating with friends and family...these are all part of the holiday season for many of us. Unfortunately, for some, irresponsible drinking is something else associated with the holidays. Your local beer wholesaler wants you and your family to enjoy this holiday season safely and responsibly. So if you choose to drink, please designate a driver and remember to always buckle your seatbelt.*

# *Responsibility Never Takes a Holiday!*







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**Happy Holidays from All of Us!**



## Students Draw, Write About Heroes

Pictured below are some of the winners of the Mayor's Drug Task Force's annual art/writing competition. In keeping with this year's theme of "Heroes," students in grades kindergarten through three drew pictures of their role models

on paper bags (now being distributed through the local IGA), while those in grades four through twelve wrote essays on the subject. Elementary winners (one per class) received a T-shirt. (Watch for more photos in our next issue.)



Wick program participants (from left): front row – Winter Turner, Myle Boyd, Angelo Fizer, Shelby Woolford, and Mahelia Benjamin; middle row – Lamont Jones, Beatrice Boyd, Brittani Rice, Lauren Jones, Aaron Landfair, and Carl Roscoe; back row – Jennifer Dick, Antoine James, Steven Hawes, Alicia Matatall, and Debbie Juriga. (Not pictured: Elijah White and Cierra Baxter.)



Merriman program participants (from left): front row – Cierra Toliver, Quentin Robinson, and Ashlee Smith; middle row – Cody Szostek, Andre Walker, Darian Taylor, Jeremiah White, Victoria Chatmon, and Joshua Martinez; back row – Shellie Moore (Principal), Mike Behnke, Amna Sheikh, Jetuan Robinson, Raishawn Lightsey, and Eric Taylor. (Not pictured: Alec Madison, Rion Bell, and Nikki Eves.)

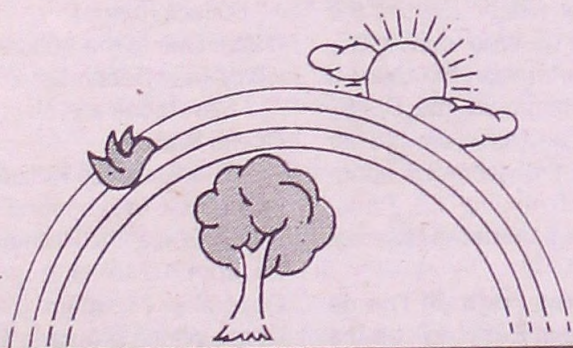


Halecreek program participants (from left): front row – Ashley Patton, Kayla Watkins, Sean Crawford, and Ashley Podezervinski; middle row – Jalynn Echols, Chelsea McLaughlin, and Stephen Leppen; back row – Lynne Mossoian (Principal), Skylarr Hussey, Crystal Lambert, Justyne Alger, Derrick Deaton, and Filmore Bouldes.

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## Party Celebrates Life of Special Child

Alexis Antoinette Heimberger – or "Heaven's Very Special Child," as she is affectionately known – recently celebrated her tenth birthday with a party held at Romulus Tower, home of her great-grandmother, Margaret Meldrum. Nearly 100 well-wishers were in attendance.

"Because of her severe scoliosis, Alexis is scheduled to have back surgery on January 18," said her grandmother, Donna Louria, also of Romulus. "The doctors are afraid that the nine-hour procedure might be too much for her weakened organs, so we wanted to get her family and friends together to make this birthday a very special one for her."

"We hope that our many friends in the community will keep Alexis in their prayers," she added.

Alexis is the daughter of Jim Heimberger of Taylor and Toni Rodri-



Alexis Heimberger

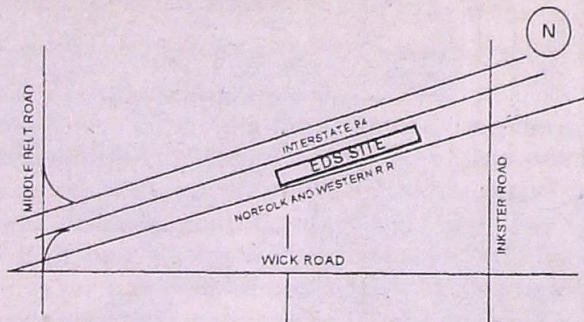
guez of Dearborn Heights. She has four half-brothers: Jim Heimberger, Jr. (age six), Brandon Mayo (age five), Joshua Heimberger (age five), and Darren Heimberger (age two). □

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### INTENT TO ISSUE A HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSTRUCTION PERMIT ENVIRONMENTAL DISPOSAL SYSTEMS, INC. ROMULUS, MICHIGAN

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) hereby gives notice of its intent to issue a hazardous waste management construction permit to Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. (EDS) pursuant to Part 111, Hazardous Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Act 451). The construction permit will enable EDS to construct a hazardous waste management facility at 28470 Citrin Drive in Romulus, Michigan.

The EDS facility would accept liquid hazardous waste from off-site generators for disposal in deep injection wells. Prior to disposal in the deep injection wells, the wastes would be stored in tanks and containers and treated in tanks. The site for the proposed facility is approximately 15 acres in size and is shown on the map below.



The Part 111 of Act 451 construction permit is required for the aboveground storage and treatment of hazardous waste prior to disposal in the deep injection wells. The deep injection wells were already permitted separately under the federal Underground Injection Control Program and Part 625, Mineral Wells, of Act 451; they are not subject to the Part 111 of Act 451 construction permit requirements.

The DEQ invites public comment on the draft construction permit. The public comment period begins December 15, 2000 and ends February 1, 2001. Written comments will be accepted during the public comment period, and must be postmarked by February 1, 2001. In addition, a public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2001, at the Romulus High School Auditorium, 9650 South Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to allow interested persons to submit comments regarding the draft construction permit. Both oral and written comments will be accepted during the hearing. Speakers will be asked to register at the hearing and to limit their presentations to allow time for everyone who is interested in speaking. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this hearing should contact Mr. Steve Sliver at the address below, or at 517-373-1976, at least a week in advance of the hearing to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

The draft construction permit, fact sheet, and application may be reviewed at the Romulus Public Library located at 11121 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan; at the DEQ's Southeast Michigan District Office located at 38980 Seven Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan (contact Mr. Mike Busse at 734-953-1403); and at the DEQ's Waste Management Division Office located on the First Floor of the John A. Hannah Building, 608 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan (contact Mr. Steve Sliver at 517-373-1976). Information is also available on the Internet at [www.deq.state.mi.us/wmd](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/wmd).

Before making a final decision on the draft construction permit, the DEQ will evaluate all comments received. The DEQ will respond to all significant comments and explain any changes made to the construction permit. Information regarding the final decision will be communicated to all persons who submit written comments or who are on the facility mailing list.

Requests, comments, and questions regarding the draft construction permit should be addressed to Mr. Steve Sliver, Waste Management Division, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741.

## Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-942-6852.)

### Happy Holidays!

A heartfelt thanks for the many beautiful cards and holiday greetings that I have received from everyone kind enough to keep me in their thoughts.

To all my friends throughout the community, I would like to send my best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

### A New Year's Resolution You Can Look Forward To

Why don't most of us stick to our New Year's resolutions? Simple: we commit ourselves to do things like lose weight or quit smoking – things that are good for us, but not good fun.

This year, you can make at least one resolution that you'll enjoy keeping by committing yourself to getting involved at the Romulus Senior Center.

By volunteering to help with one or more of the Center's programs, you'll enjoy more than just the satisfaction and fulfillment that comes with knowing that you've helped others. You'll also be spending time with a great bunch of friendly people who are fun to be around and interesting to know.

Want to find out more? Call Linda Norman, the Center's Program Coordinator. She's always happy to welcome new faces – or renew her acquaintance with old friends who haven't been in for a while.

### Holiday Gala

The Romulus Senior Center's annual Holiday Gala will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel on Wednesday, December 27. The afternoon of fabulous food, great entertainment (by Bobby Mac), door prizes, and fun is only \$8 per person, thanks to the generous sponsorship of DoubleTree and U.S. Park.

Deadline for registration is Monday, December 18.

### Luncheon Features Football Theme

"Pre-Super Bowl Party" will be the theme of the Center's next luncheon, set for Friday, January 26, at 1 p.m. The menu will consist of traditional "tailgate" fare: chicken wings, pizza rolls, taco salad, and more!

Tickets – just \$6 per person – must be purchased by Monday, January 22.

### Senior Center Forms Partnership with Halecreek School

On Wednesday, November 15, staff members from Romulus Senior Center visited Halecreek Elementary School to give its 500+ students an opportunity to learn more about the Center and the seniors who use it. Topics discussed included:

- the number of seniors who live and/or work in Romulus,
- what seniors like to do for entertainment, and
- what benefits could be gained by establishing a relationship between the senior citizens and students.

The meeting was a big success, resulting in the formation of a partnership between the School and Center, and the excited students have already begun planning ways that they can use their skills in a meaningful way to put a smile on the faces of their new friends. Future projects will include:

- handmade holiday/seasonal cards (kindergarten),
- handmade birthday cards (first and second grades),
- luncheon place-mats (third and fourth grades), and
- monthly newsletter articles (fifth and sixth grades).

### Club #1 Wants You!

The local senior group known as Club #1 meets at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m. Future meetings will include:

- December 19 (meeting, bag lunch, games),
- January 9 (inauguration of officers, birthdays, lunch, raffle, games),
- January 16 (meeting, bag lunch, bunco),
- January 23 (meeting, bag lunch, games), and
- January 30 (speaker for the blind, potluck, bingo).

(Note: Due to the holidays, no meeting will be held December 26 or January 2.)

New faces are always welcome.

### Crime Watch

The Romulus Police Department's new Crime Prevention Officer, Damian Hull, will be at the Romulus Senior Center from 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 28, for the Center's monthly Crime Watch program. Be sure to stop in and make him feel welcome.

### Closed for the Holidays

The Romulus Senior Center would like to remind everyone that, due to the holidays, its doors will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26, as well as Monday, January 1.

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## Community Calendar

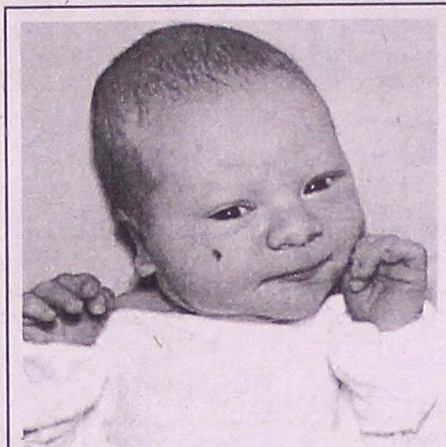
- **"Person of the Year" Nominees Sought** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for its annual "Person of the Year" award. Anyone who has made a significant contribution to the community is eligible. Nomination forms may be obtained by calling the Chamber office (734-326-4290). Deadline for return is January 1, 2001.
- **Youtheatre Offers *Caterpillar/Cricket*** – Youtheatre's Wiggle Club (for children ages three to six; no one under three will be admitted to the theater) will present *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and *The Very Quiet Cricket* – a blacklight stage version that uses masterful puppetry and music to bring Eric Carle's two classic story-books to life – on Saturday, December 16 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, December 17 (2 p.m.), at the Millennium Centre (15600 J.L. Hudson Dr., Southfield). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$10 at the door. For more information, please call 248-557-PLAY (7529).
- **Meeting Targets Nursing-home Reform** – The Michigan Campaign for Quality Care, a nonpartisan organization working toward nursing-home reform, holds its meetings on the third Tuesday of each Month (next meeting: December 19) at Berwyn Senior Center (26155 Richardson, Dearborn Heights) from 7 to 9 p.m. For further information, please call 313-386-7784, or visit the organization's Website: [pamoga@webtv.net](http://pamoga@webtv.net).
- **"African American Experience" Book Discussion Group** – The African American Experience Book Discussion Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting: December 20) at the Romulus Public Library (11121 S. Wayne Rd., next to City Hall). New members are welcome. For more information, call Alfaye Woods or Diane Hazen at the Library (734-942-7589) during its regular hours (Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.).
- ***This Blood's For You*** – Politics, ethics, and morals are turned topsy-turvy when Charlie, a killer on death row, volunteers to have his organs transplanted to save four people. The problem: the electric chair will fry them and lethal injection will poison them. So, how does the state go about the execution, and when is it legitimate to kill one human being to save the lives of four others? This amusing, thoughtful play puts a politically timely slant on execution, redemption, charity, and transplants. The farcical nature of *This Blood's For You* makes you laugh, sometimes even roar, even though the subject matter can be rather grim. Performances will be given at the Detroit Repertory Theatre (13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit) Thursday–Sunday, December 21–24 and 28–31. General-admission tickets (\$15) are available at the Repertory Box Office, TicketMaster outlets, and on-line at CultureFinder.com. For more information, call 313-868-1347.
- **PWP Hosts "Holiday Metro Dance"** – Downriver Chapter #369 of Parents Without Partners invites you to its "Holiday Metro Dance," to be held at the Taylor Moose Lodge (9981 S. Telegraph Rd., between Wick and Goddard, Taylor) on Saturday, December 23, at 9 p.m. (An orientation for prospective members is planned for 8 p.m.) Admission is \$5 for members; \$7 for nonmembers. Cash bar. Music provided by Sound Spectrum. For information, contact Board President George Graff at 313-388-8488.
- **Free Seminar** – On Tuesday, December 28, from 6 to 8 p.m., the Dorsey School–Wayne/Westland Campus (34841 Veteran's Plaza, Michigan Ave. and Second St., Wayne) will host a free seminar that's open to the public. Topics will be "Computer Repair Technician" (A+ Certification, Comp TIA approved) and "Network Engineering" (Microsoft Systems Engineer). Speaker for the event will be James Sheridan, Network Administrator. To reserve seating, call 734-595-1540.
- **Now at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History** – Current exhibitions at the Museum (315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit) include: *A Salute to Black Classical Composers* (through December 31, 2000); *For Honor and Valor: African Americans in the United States Military, 1775–1953* (through January 21, 2001); and *Historical Themes, Tales and Legends: The Art of Jerry Pinkney* (through March 30, 2001). The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For general information, call 313-494-5800, ext. 0.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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## The Stork Arrived

### Riley John Bergeron



Riley John Bergeron

Michael and Beth Bergeron of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Riley John Bergeron.

Riley was born in Oakwood Annapolis Hospital (Wayne, MI) at 11:34 a.m. on Sunday, September 3, 2000, weighing in at 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 19<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches in length.

Among those giving the new arrival a warm welcome into the family were his paternal grandparents, Pete and Marsha Bergeron (Romulus), and his maternal grandparents, James Bergman (Livonia, MI) and Marge Bergman (Ft. Myers, FL). □

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## Obituary

### Marie V. Rehkop

Marie V. Rehkop of Romulus, Michigan, died Wednesday, November 29, 2000, at the age of 87.

Born in Flat River, Missouri, on January 10, 1913, Marie was a Degree of Honor holder in the Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by one daughter, Donna Mae Genovese (Romulus); one brother, Charley Huey (Harrison, MI);

five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Among those predeceasing her were her husband, Aeon Rehkop, and one brother, Gilbert Huey.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, December 6, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. □



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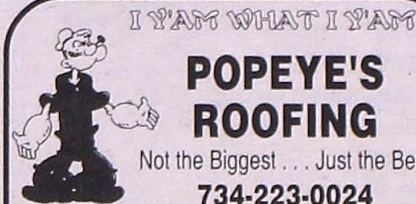
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